



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

**House Resolution No. 14**

LCO No. 3786



Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. SHARKEY, 88<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. CAFERO, 142<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF ELAINE C. O'BRIEN.**

Resolved by this House:

1 WHEREAS, on Friday, February 21, 2014, the State of Connecticut  
2 lost one of its distinguished state representatives with the passing of  
3 Elaine C. O'Brien at the age of fifty-eight; and

4 WHEREAS, Elaine C. O'Brien was born Elaine Catherine Corrigan  
5 in Medford, Massachusetts and raised in Somerville, Massachusetts;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, upon experiencing flight for the first time, Elaine  
8 immediately fell in love with soaring among the clouds and became  
9 the youngest female aviator in the history of Beverly Airport flight  
10 school at age 17. By the age of 20, Elaine was making a living as a  
11 flight instructor which left her students both pleasantly surprised and  
12 impressed; and

13 WHEREAS, she moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, married and

14 had 3 sons - John, Daniel, and Thomas; and

15 WHEREAS, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Elementary  
16 Education at Pennsylvania State University and received her Master's  
17 Degree in Public Administration from Westfield State College; and

18 WHEREAS, the O'Brien family moved to Suffield, Connecticut  
19 where Elaine began a long and storied career in Connecticut serving its  
20 citizens in countless capacities; and

21 WHEREAS, Elaine won her first election in 1991 when she was  
22 elected to the Suffield Zoning and Planning Commission; and was  
23 elected in 1993 to the Suffield Board of Education, where she served as  
24 Chairman of the Facilities and Transportation Committee, a member of  
25 the Policy Committee and Personnel Committee, and a representative  
26 to the Capitol Region Education Council; and

27 WHEREAS, Elaine also served as President of the Suffield Parent  
28 Teacher Association; a member and President of the Suffield Rotary  
29 Club; a member of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association and the  
30 League of Women Voters; and Scout Leader for the Boy Scouts of  
31 America, Pack 66; and was active in other groups and organizations;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Elaine served as the Town Clerk for the Town of  
34 Suffield from 1998 until her passing; and

35 WHEREAS, Elaine's efforts and accomplishments at the local level  
36 blossomed into a desire to have a more profound and widespread  
37 impact on the State of Connecticut in its entirety; and

38 WHEREAS, this desire led Elaine to her first victorious election to  
39 the Connecticut General Assembly in 2010, in which she was chosen to  
40 represent the 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, which includes Suffield, East  
41 Granby and part of Windsor; and

42 WHEREAS, during her time at the General Assembly, she served as

43 Vice-Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee; Assistant Majority  
44 Whip; and a member of the Commerce, Transportation and Planning  
45 and Development Committees; and

46 WHEREAS, as a member of the Commerce Committee, Elaine  
47 joined colleagues in the formation of a "Manufacturing Caucus" to  
48 work together and across political party lines to educate people about  
49 the aspects of manufacturing in Connecticut and to promote  
50 manufacturing by improving and furthering policies that would assist  
51 the expansion of business and the corresponding hiring of more  
52 employees; and

53 WHEREAS, Elaine served as a State Representative in the General  
54 Assembly until her passing on February 21, 2014; and

55 WHEREAS, she will always be remembered for her unwavering  
56 dedication and visionary contributions to the Town of Suffield, as well  
57 as to that of East Granby and Windsor, along with her more  
58 encompassing efforts to the State of Connecticut and her service to  
59 people throughout the State; and

60 WHEREAS, in 2010 Elaine married Justin Donnelly, a Suffield,  
61 Connecticut attorney and friend who had been a positive presence in  
62 her life and the life of her sons; and

63 WHEREAS, Elaine is survived by her loving husband Justin  
64 Donnelly; her son John and his wife Sara, who are attorneys in New  
65 York; her son Daniel, who is a financial planner in Springfield,  
66 Massachusetts; and her son Thomas, who is a PhD candidate in social  
67 psychology at UMASS Amherst; and

68 WHEREAS, Elaine is further survived by her parents, John and  
69 Helen Corrigan of Somerville, Massachusetts; her brother Jack  
70 Corrigan and his wife Kathleen of Brookline, Massachusetts; her  
71 brother Jim Corrigan and his wife Nikki; her sister Norma and her  
72 husband Randy Bohrer of Framingham, Massachusetts; and her sister

73 Joanne Corrigan of Medford, Massachusetts; and

74 WHEREAS, Elaine is also survived by her Donnelly stepchildren -  
75 Jay, Steven, Sean, Cassandra, Zeke, Jake and Hannah; and

76 WHEREAS, Elaine was also widely known as a wonderful aunt to  
77 her nieces and nephews - Matthew, Patrick, Megan and Sophia  
78 Corrigan; and Michael and Eric Bohrer.

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut House  
80 of Representatives expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt  
81 condolences on the passing of one of its respected members, Elaine C.  
82 O'Brien, whose death is a profound loss to the General Assembly, her  
83 family and friends, the residents of the Towns of Suffield, East Granby  
84 and Windsor, and to the people of the State of Connecticut; and

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of  
86 Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to the family  
87 of Elaine C. O'Brien as an expression of the high esteem and affection  
88 in which she was held.